

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCI-06 NSC-10 HEW-08 DOTE-00 INT-08

HUD-02 DODE-00 CEQ-02 EB-11 IO-13 EPA-04 OIC-04

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 AID-20 DEAE-00

JUS-02 SNM-02 RSR-01 /185 W  
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R 241708Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

WHITE HOUSE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. EGEBERG AND HODSOLL; ROME FOR DR. EGEBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: CCMS: ADVANCED HEALTH CARE - DR. EGEBERG'S VISIT

1. SUMMARY: DR. EGEBERG'S MEETING WITH DR. HALTER WAS IN OUR VIEW HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN THAT IT ELICITED EXPRESSIONS OF BELGIAN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN CCMS ADVANCED HEALTH CARE PROJECTS INCLUDING DRUG REHABILITATION. DR. HALTER, ALTHOUGH DOUBTFUL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PRACTICAL RESULTS, BELIEVES AN INFORMAL, HIGH-LEVEL CCMS MEETING ON DRUGS WOULD BE USEFUL IF ORGANIZED AND HELD DISCREETLY. WE BELIEVE THAT, AS A RESULT OF DR. EGEBERG'S EFFORTS, DR. HALTER NOW VIEWS CCMS WITH LESS SUSPICION THAN FORMERLY. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. EGEBERG HAD FRANK AND FRIENDLY NINETY-MINUTE MEETING WITH DR. HALTER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC  
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HEALTH, FAMILY AND ENVIRONMENT , ON JULY 20. VAN DAELE

OF HALTER'S CABINET AND EMB OFF ALSO PRESENT.

3. DR. EGEBERG DESCRIBED THE AIMS WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THE FOUR ACTIVE PROJECTS BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN THE ADVANCED HEALTH CARE PILOT STUDY. WITH RESPECT TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, HE PROMISED TO ADVISE HALTER OF THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS IN ROME ON PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND PLANS. DR. HALTER EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE PROJECT ON AUTOMATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES AND ASKED FOR AN AGENDA FOR THE FALL MEETING AND BACKUP PAPERS THAT WOULD ASSIST HIM IN SELECTING BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE MEETING. DR. EGEBERG AGREED TO MAKE THE REQUESTED MATERIALS AVAILABLE. HE ALSO THANKED DR. HALTER FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND FACILITIES THE MINISTRY HAD LENT TO THE ORGANIZED AMBULATORY CARE TOUR LAST APRIL.

4. DR. HALTER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED MEETING ON DRUG REHABILITATION. HE BELIEVED IT SHOULD RECEIVE NO PUBLICITY AND SHOULD CONSIST OF AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION AMONG SENIOR OFFICIALS, WITH AN OPEN AGENDA. (HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING HIMSELF.) IN KEEPING WITH HIS EXPRESSED BELIEFS THAT DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND OTHER PUBLICITY ARE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND THAT BELGIUM HAS NO DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM TO SPEAK OF, DR. HALTER STRESSED THE NEED FOR DISCRETION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING AND ANY OTHER EFFORTS IN THE DRUG FIELD. HE SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO HOLDING THE MEETING IN THE NATO/CCMS FRAMEWORK, BUT HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING IT TAKE PLACE IN BELGIUM. HE DID NOT THINK A MEETING WOULD IMPINGE UPON WHO ACTIVITIES IN THE DRUG FIELD.

5. IN GENERAL, DR. HALTER WAS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OVER THE CHANCES OF GETTING POLITICIANS TO PAY ATTENTION TO REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE ADVANCED HEALTH CARE PROJECTS. HE REFERRED TO THE OBSTACLES TO COST-CUTTING AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS POSED BY DOCTORS, POLITICIANS, HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES, EACH WITH PARTICULAR VESTED INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING THE SYSTEM AS IT IS. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET LEADERS CAN ACCOMPLISH MORE IN THE WAY OF HEALTH CARE REFORM, BUT USING METHODS AND OPERATING IN A SYSTEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE WEST WOULD OF COURSE NOT WISH TO COPY.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DR. HALTER OBVIOUSLY VIEWS DIMLY THE PROSPECTS FOR ACTION IN THE HEALTH CARE FIELD, HE DOES NOT DESPAIR OF TRYING. HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECTS ON AUTOMATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES AND DRUG REHABILITATION IS ENCOURAGING, AS IS THE FACT THAT HE REFRAINED ON THIS OCCASION FROM QUESTIONING

NATO'S ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY. WE BELIEVE DR. EGEBERG'S VISIT WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING CONTINUED HIGH-LEVEL US INTERESTS IN CCMS WORK AND IN GETTING DR. HALTER TO SOFTEN WSOMEWHAT HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DOCTRINAIRE OPPOSITION TO CCMS. THE KEY TO CONTINUED COOPERATION BY DR. HALTER AND HIS MINISTRY LIES, WE THINK, IN KEEPING HIM FULLY INFORMED OF PROGRESS IN THE PILOT STUDY AND FULLY SUPPLIED WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL RELATING TO THE VARIOUS PROJECTS. THIS MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED AFTER DR. EGEBERG'S DEPARTURE FROM BRUSSELS. BOOCHEVER

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## Message Attributes

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